

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

March 5, 2013

Over the past several years Los Angeles County has seen a significant increase in the number of sexually trafficked youth. Sadly, this County is recognized as one of the major hubs for sex trafficking in the state and nation.

It is sickening that there are children as young as 10 years old that are forcibly coerced and manipulated into selling their bodies. Untold numbers of these children fall victim to predatory adults, many of whom have ties to criminal street gangs. They are sexually exploited and abused in unspeakably brutal ways, all for commercial gain. Criminal street gangs have embraced human trafficking as a lucrative revenue source; as sex trafficking now rivals narcotic sales as the major source of revenue for many gangs.

SB 473 by State Senator Marty Block was introduced on February 22<sup>nd</sup> and is sponsored by the County of San Diego. If enacted, the bill would add pimping, pandering and human trafficking to the list of crimes associated with gang activity. Penal Code Section 186.22 defines a criminal gang and lists 33 offenses that are associated with gang activity. The definition of a criminal street gang triggers enhanced penalties and bail, affects probation and parole conditions, augments law enforcement tools, and affects the way the case is handled by all stakeholders in the system.

**-- MORE --**

MOTION

MOLINA	_____
YAROSLAVSKY	_____
KNABE	_____
ANTONOVICH	_____
RIDLEY-THOMAS	_____

SB 473 would also add a three year state prison sentence for any person convicted of a human trafficking crime that occurs on or within 1,000 feet of a school.

**I THEREFORE MOVE THAT** the Board of Supervisors support and co-sponsor SB 473 (Block), which adds pimping, pandering and human trafficking to the list of crimes associated with gang activity, and direct the County's Sacramento advocates to communicate the Board's position to the Governor and State Legislature.

# # # # #

NI:e